

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the subject application. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Favorable consideration in light of the following remarks and the amendment is respectfully requested.

First Obviousness Rejection

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hayakawa (JP 6165298) in view of Aarts et al. (US 6,084,970). In order to establish obviousness, the *combination* of the prior art references must teach or suggest *all* the claim limitations. Independent claim 1 has been modified to recite performing virtual localization processing to a **pair of monophonic** (not stereophonic) surround signals. Likewise, independent claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 11 recite limitations regarding providing a **first and a second monophonic** (not stereophonic) surround signal for virtual localization processing. As disclosed in the subject application, virtual localization processing is performed on **monophonic** signals in order to mitigate producing reversed virtual surround stereophonic sound sources with respect to listeners 2 and 3. (See Application, p.14, l.16 - p.15, l.7). Neither Hayakawa nor Aarts et al teach or suggest such aspects.

Rather, Hayakawa discloses supplying a **binaural** (stereo) output from a **binaural** recording system to a reverse filter network that erases crosstalk between speakers in order to allow plural listeners the ability to enjoy music as if they were in the original sound field. Aarts et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Hayakawa. Instead, Aarts et al. discloses a mono-to-stereo signal converter, wherein a **single** monoaural signal is separated into frequency bands, some of which are utilized as a left stereo signal while the remainder are utilized as the right stereo signal.

Since the *combination* of Hayakawa and Aarts et al. does not teach or suggest *all* the claim limitations, the combination of Hayakawa and Aarts et al. does make obvious the subject claims. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14 and 24 should be withdrawn.

Second Obviousness Rejection

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hayakawa (JP 6165298) in view of Aarts et al. (US 6,084,970) and in further view of Markow et al (US 6,175,489). This rejection should be withdrawn for the following reason. Claim 6 depends from independent claim 2 and Markow fails to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Hayakawa and Aarts et al. Instead, Markow discloses a stereo speaker system. Therefore, Hayakawa in view of Aarts et al. and in further view of Markow et al. does not make obvious the subject claim, and the rejection of claim 6 should be withdrawn.

Third Obviousness Rejection

Claims 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hayakawa (JP 6165298) in view of Aarts et al. (US 6,084,970) and in further view of Iida et al. (US 5,844,993). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn because Iida does not make up for the deficiencies of Hayakawa and Aarts et al. regarding performing virtual localization processing on a pair of monophonic signals. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Fourth Obviousness Rejection

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hayakawa (JP 6165298) in view of Aarts et al. (US 6,084,970) and in further view of Iida et al. (US 5,844,993). This rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn for the following reason. Claim 13 depends from independent claim 12 and the combination of Hayakawa, Aarts et al. and Iida et al. do not teach or suggest independent claim 12 as described *supra*. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Objection to Claims

Claims 15-23 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants' representative submits that this objection is moot in light of the comments above. However, applicants' representative reserves the option to recast the claims as suggested by the Examiner, if necessary, at a later date.

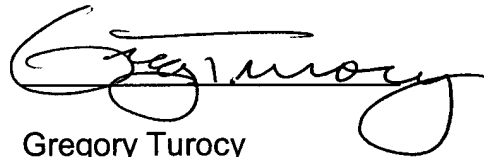
Petition for Extension of Time

A petition and request for a one month extension of time is hereby made. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fees for the One Month Petition to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,
AMIN & TUROCY, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Turocy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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